

## Claims

1. A method, for use in a client system (100), for downloading from a file server (101) a file and an associated virus-free certificate (200) certifying that the file is virus-free, comprising the steps of :

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- sending (401) a request to a file server for a virus-free certificate associated with a file to download from said file server, said request comprising one or a plurality of requirements (301...307) for said virus-free certificate;
  - downloading (403) the file and the associated virus-free certificate, said virus-free certificate comprising a file signature (207) for certifying that the file is declared virus-free by a virus-free certificate authority (102).
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2. The method according to <sup>Claim 1</sup> the preceding claim wherein the one or plurality of virus-free certificate requirements comprise:

- a list (302) of one or a plurality of anti-virus programs that must have been executed on the file to download.

3. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the one or plurality of anti-virus requirements further comprise:

- a list (301) of one of a plurality of virus-free certificate authorities to which the issuer (202) of the virus-free certificate must belong.

4. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the one or plurality of anti-virus requirements further comprise:

- a virus-free certificate type (304);

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- a virus-free certificate proxy (305) that can be used by the file server for requesting a virus-free certificate when no virus-free certificate is locally available.

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5. The method according to any one of the preceding claims comprising the further steps of:

If no certificate satisfies the virus-free certificate requirements:

- receiving (412) from the file server a list of available virus-free certificates;

if a certificate is accepted by the client system:

- selecting (413) from the list an available virus-free certificate for the file;
- downloading (404) the file and the selected virus-free certificate.

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6. The method according to any one of the preceding claims comprising the further steps of:

if no certificate is accepted by the client system and if the virus-free certificate request does not comprise a virus-free certificate authority proxy:

- downloading (406) the file without virus-free certificate;
- requesting (407) a virus-free certificate to a default virus-free certificate authority.

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7. A system, more particularly a client system (100), for carrying out the method according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

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8. A computer program comprising instructions for carrying out the method according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

9. A method, for use in a file server (101), for downloading to client system (100) a file and an associated virus-free certificate (200) certifying that the file is virus-free, comprising the steps of :

- receiving (401) a request from a client system for a virus-free certificate associated with a file to download to said client system, said request comprising one or a plurality of requirements (301...307) for said virus-free certificate;
- downloading (403) the file and the associated virus-free certificate, said virus-free certificate comprising a file signature (207) for certifying that the file is declared virus-free by a virus-free certificate authority (102).

10. The method according to the preceding claim wherein the step of receiving a request from a client system for a virus-free certificate associated with a file to download to said client system, comprises the further steps of:

- determining (402) whether a virus-free certificate for the file satisfies the virus-free certificate requirements comprised in the request;

If a virus-free certificate for the file satisfies the virus-free certificate requirements comprised in the request:

- downloading (403) the file and the associated virus-free certificate.

11. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 10 wherein the step of receiving a request from a client system for a virus-free certificate associated with a file to download to said client system, comprises the further steps of:

- determining (400) whether a virus-free certificate is requested for the file;

If no virus-free certificate is requested for the file:

- downloading (404) the file without associated virus-free certificate.

12. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein the step of receiving a request from a client system for a virus-free certificate associated with a file to download to said client system, comprises the further steps of:

- determining (402) whether a virus-free certificate for the file satisfies the virus-free certificate requirements comprised in the request;

If no virus-free certificate for the file satisfies the virus-free certificate requirements comprised in the request:

- sending (412) a list of available virus-free certificates for this file.

13. The method according to the preceding claim wherein the step of sending a list of available virus-free certificates for this file comprises the further steps of:

- receiving (413) a reply from the client system indicating whether an available virus-free certificate is accepted or not;

If an available virus-free certificate is accepted by the client system:

- downloading (404) the file and the accepted virus-free certificate;

If no virus-free certificate is accepted by the client system:

- determining (405) whether a virus-free certificate authority proxy is defined in the virus-free certificate request;

If a virus-free certificate authority proxy is defined in the virus-free certificate request:

- requesting (409) to this virus-free certificate authority proxy a virus-free certificate for the file.

14. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 13 wherein the one or plurality of virus-free certificate requirements comprise:

- a list (302) of one or a plurality of anti-virus programs that must have been executed on the file to download.

5 15. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 14 wherein the one or plurality of anti-virus requirements further comprise:

- a list (301) of one of a plurality of virus-free certificate authorities to which the issuer (202) of the virus-free certificate must belong;

10 16. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 15 wherein the one or plurality of anti-virus requirements further comprise:

- a virus-free certificate type (304);
- a virus-free certificate proxy (305) that can be used by the file server for requesting a virus-free certificate when no virus-free certificate is locally available.

15 17. A system, more particularly a file server system (101), for carrying out the method according to claims 9 to 16.

18. A computer program comprising instructions for carrying out the method according to any one of claims 9 to 16.

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